



The CLUEMASTER'S TOPSY-TURVY CRIMES!



DETECTIVE

COMICS

MAY
NO. 351

12¢



YOU MISSED YOUR FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO
CAPTURE ME, BATMAN! IF YOU WANT A
SECOND CHANCE--**SOLVE THIS CLUE!**



IT'S A TIP-OFF TO WHERE MY NEXT CRIME WILL
TAKE PLACE--24 HOURS FROM NOW!
The Cluemaster



ANTONIO
ANDERSON

WATCH

SUPERMAN

REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.



ON

TELEVISION!

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE ADVENTURE
CHARACTER COMES RIGHT
INTO YOUR HOME IN

THRILLING SUPER ACTION!

NOW FEATURED ON THE FOLLOWING TELEVISION STATIONS...

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NEW BEDFORD, MASS. ... WTEV	FARGO, N.D. ... KTHI	SEATTLE, WASH. ... KIRO	LEXINGTON, KY. ... WLEX
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ST. LOUIS, MO. ... KPLR	ROCK ISLAND, ILL. ... WHBF	LITTLE ROCK, ARK. ... KTHV	BUFFALO, N.Y. ... WKBW
	MIAMI, FLA. ... WTVJ	NORFOLK, VA. ... WVEC	BOSTON, MASS. ... WNAC

IF THE SUPERMAN TV SHOW IS NOT PLAYING IN YOUR AREA,
SEND IN A REQUEST TO YOUR LOCAL TV STATION!

BATMAN

With **ROBIN** The Boy Wonder

NOT EVEN THE QUICK WITS AND DEDUCTIVE MINDS OF **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** COULD FATHOM THE CLUES LEFT FOR THEM AT EVERY CRIME COMMITTED BY THE NEW ARCH-CRIMINAL, **THE CLUEMASTER!** THEY WERE TRICKED AND TAUNTED AT EVERY TURN BY THIS STRANGEST OF CROOKS-- WHOSE MOTIVE WAS NOT JUST ROBBERY BUT SOMETHING SO DARINGLY DIFFERENT THAT IT WOULD BRING ABOUT A MONUMENTAL FIRST IN CRIMEDOM!

THE CLUEMASTER'S TOPSY-TURVY CRIMES!



HA! HA! HA! **BATMAN**-- YOU'VE JUST BEEN INTRODUCED TO **THE CLUEMASTER!** YOU'VE FOUND ME-- ONLY TO LOSE ME! BUT DON'T DESPAIR-- I'LL LEAVE A **CLUE** FOR YOU TO TRACK ME DOWN-- IF YOU **DARE!**

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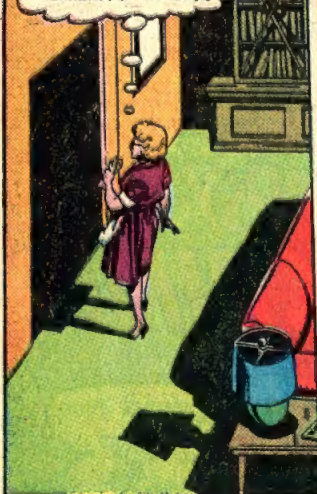
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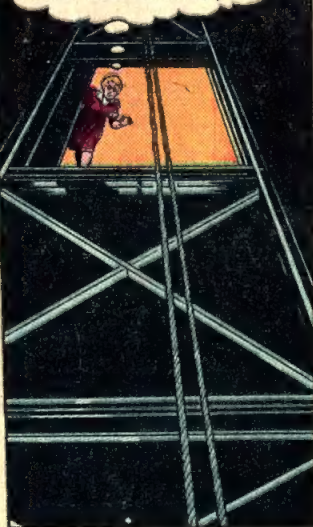
AS AUNT HARRIET GOES ABOUT HER DAILY CHORES OF KEEPING THE BRUCE WAYNE MANSION SPICK-AND-SPAN, SHE USES SOME EXTRA "ELBOW GREASE" ON A WALL -- AND ...

OH, MY GOODNESS -- A PANEL IN THE WALL'S SLIDING OPEN!



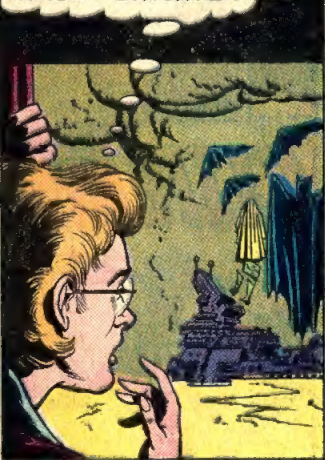
A LITTLE FEARFULLY, SHE PEERS DOWN THE LONG ELEVATOR SHAFT...

WHERE IN THE WORLD DOES THIS GO? ODD THAT NEITHER BRUCE NOR DICK EVER TOLD ME ABOUT THIS ELEVATOR!



SHE PRESSES THE BUTTON FOR THE CAR AND MOMENTS LATER, RIDES IT DOWN INTO A GREAT SPRAWLING CAVE...

WHERE AM I? OH MY GOODNESS! A SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY -- BATARANGS ON THE WALL -- BATMAN AND ROBIN COSTUMES! I MUST BE IN THEIR SECRET HIDE-OUT -- THE FAMOUS BATCAVE!



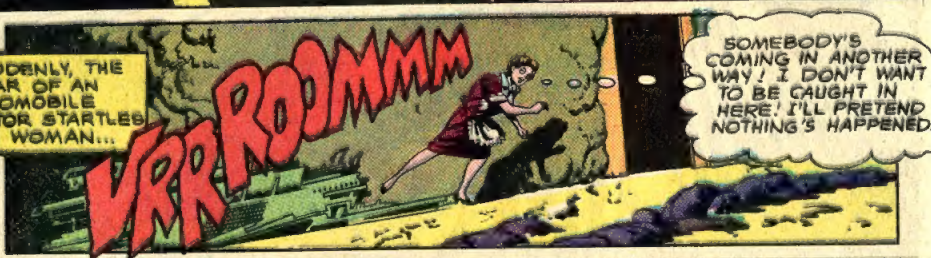
BUT WHAT'S THE BATCAVE DOING UNDER THE WAYNE MANSION -- UNLESS -- UNLESS BRUCE AND DICK ARE BATMAN AND ROBIN! OH, BUT THAT'S RIDIC -- I MEAN, THEY COULDN'T BE! BUT -- YET -- IT WOULD EXPLAIN --



SUDDENLY, THE ROAR OF AN AUTOMOBILE MOTOR STARTLES THE WOMAN...

VRRROOOOMMM

SOMEBODY'S COMING IN ANOTHER WAY! I DON'T WANT TO BE CAUGHT IN HERE! I'LL PRETEND NOTHING'S HAPPENED!



SHE RIDES THE ELEVATOR UPSTAIRS, MAKES A HURRIED EXIT --

HOLD IT, HATTIE! DON'T PANIC! YOU CAN'T LEAVE THE CAR UP HERE! BETTER SEND IT DOWN AS IT WAS ORIGINALLY -- OR THEY'LL SUSPECT WHAT I'VE FOUND OUT!



EXPERT CRIME-FIGHTERS THAT THEY ARE, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** ARE QUICK TO OBSERVE ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY! THUS-- AS THEY BEGIN TO REMOVE THEIR COSTUMES...

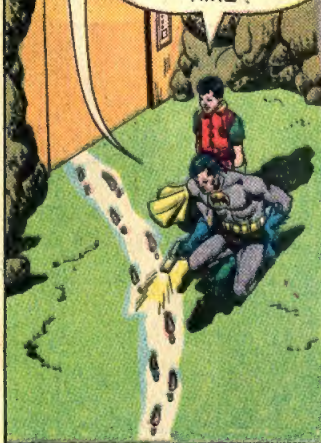
SNIFF! SNIFF! -- SO DID I JUST GOT A WHIFF OF A FAMILIAR PERFUME -- I! IT'S THE TYPE AUNT HARRIET USES-- LISTEN! THE ELEVATOR CAR JUST PLUNKED DOWN INTO POSITION!



MOMENTS LATER, USING THEIR CRIME-DETECTION DEVICES...

SURE ENOUGH-- AUNT HARRIET'S FOOT-PRINTS!

WOW! SHE FOUND THE SECRET PANEL SOMEHOW AND CAME DOWN HERE! SHE MUST HAVE GUESSED WE'RE **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** BY THIS TIME!



NOT NECESSARILY! SHE'LL HAVE TO **PROVE** HER SUSPICIONS FIRST--AND WE'RE GOING TO MAKE IT TOUGH ON HER BY GIVING HER PLENTY OF ROOM FOR DOUBT!



LATER THAT NIGHT, AFTER DINNER--AUNT HARRIET FINALLY EXPLODES HER BOMBSHELL...

BRUCE, I FOUND A SECRET ELEVATOR IN THE HOUSE TODAY! WOULD YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT--?

SECRET ELEVATOR--? WHERE--?



IT'S RIGHT BEHIND THIS SLIDING PANEL AND-- OHHH! THERE'S NO ELEVATOR CAR HERE NOW-- JUST A CLOSET! IS IT POSSIBLE I WAS DAY-DREAMING?

THAT'S WHAT **ROBIN** AND I COUNTED ON WHEN WE CHANGED THE CAR BEFORE SHOWING UP FOR DINNER!



THE BOYS THINK THEY'VE FOOLED ME, BUT I'LL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH YET!

A NEWLY INSTALLED ELECTRONIC REMOTE-CONTROL DEVICE WILL STILL LET US WORK THE ELEVATOR-- BUT NOBODY ELSE! I WONDER IF AUNT HARRIET WILL GO FOR OUR COVER-UP-- OR WILL SHE TRY TO PULL A FEW TRICKS OF HER OWN TO PROVE OUR OTHER IDENTITIES?



NEXT EVENING AS THE **COWLED CRUSADER** AND **BOY WONDER** PREPARE TO LEAVE ON THEIR NIGHTLY PATROL OF THE **GOTHAM CITY** STREETS...

BATMAN YOU DON'T SUPPOSE AUNT HARRIET WOULD GO SO FAR AS TO HAVE GIMMICKED UP THE ROAD-WAY OUT OF THE **BATCAVE**, DO YOU?

I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST HER! IT'D BE A NEAT WAY TO TRY AND FIND THE ENTRANCE TO THE **BATCAVE** FROM **OUTSIDE**, SINCE SHE CAN NO LONGER WORK THE ELEVATOR! CHECK THAT, **ROBIN**!

OUTSIDE THE CONCEALED HILLSIDE ENTRANCE...

HEYYY, HOW ABOUT THAT! SHE'S COATED OUR EXIT ROAD WITH WET PITCH! IF WE HAD DRIVEN OVER IT, SHE'D KNOW WHICH ROAD WE TOOK AND MAYBE FIND **THIS** ENTRANCE TO THE **BATCAVE**! I'LL BET SHE'S DONE THE SAME THING TO **ALL** THE ROADS AROUND THE ESTATE!

OKAY! WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS "EMERGENCY" BY USING THE **HYDROFOIL** ATTACHMENT WE RECENTLY FITTED UNDER THE **BATMOBILE**-- THAT SHOOTS A COMPRESSED AIR STREAM UNDER US AND LETS US MOVE ALONG ON THAT!

THE COMPRESSED AIR LIFTS THE **BATMOBILE** OFF THE GROUND AS A PROPELLER WHICH EJECTS FROM BEHIND IT, MOVES THE VEHICLE FORWARD...

WHEN WE'VE GONE A MILE ALONG THE MAIN HIGHWAY WE'LL LET DOWN ONTO THE TIRES!

REGULAR CARS SHOULD HAVE AN ATTACHMENT LIKE THIS-- IT'D BE HANDY IN CASE OF A FLAT TIRE!

AHEAD OF THEM IN **GOTHAM CITY** HALF AN HOUR LATER, UNSEEN IN THE ROOF-TOP SHADOWS, WAITS A MAN WITH A WALKIE-TALKIE...

HERE COME **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** NOW, STRAIGHT UP **MARINE BOULEVARD**!

IT'S ABOUT TIME! WE'VE BEEN WAITING A WEEK FOR THEM TO TAKE THIS ROUTE!

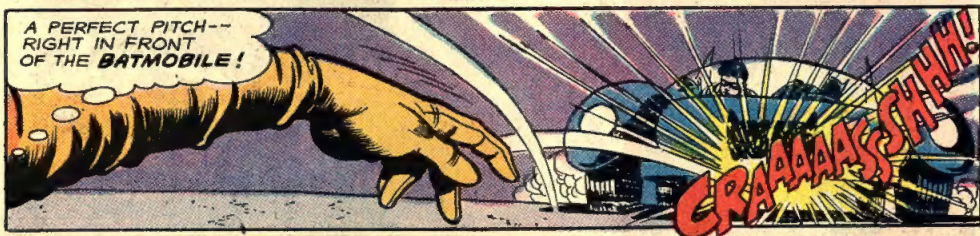
ONE HUNDRED YARDS FURTHER ON...

BATMAN! MEN COMING OUT OF THE **LOWLAND TRUST BANK**-- LED BY A GUY WEARING A CRAZY MIXED-UP UNIFORM!

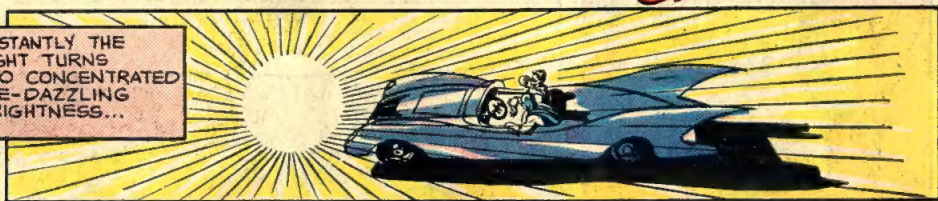
I'VE REHEARSED THIS MEETING TOO LONG TO MESS IT UP NOW! OFF COMES THIS GLASS-PELLET FROM MY UNIFORM--



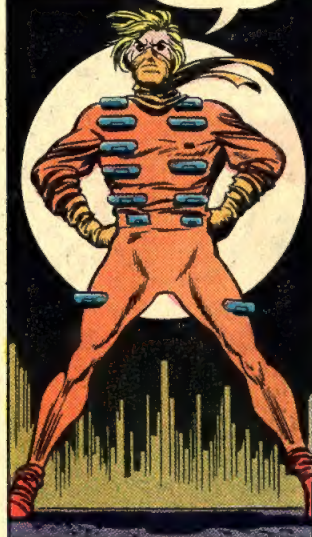
A PERFECT PITCH-- RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE **BATMOBILE**!



INSTANTLY THE NIGHT TURNS INTO CONCENTRATED EYE-DAZZLING BRIGHTNESS...



HA! HA! HA! **BATMAN**-- YOU'VE JUST BEEN INTRODUCED TO-- **THE CLUEMASTER**! YOU'VE FOUND ME-- ONLY TO LOSE ME! BUT DON'T DESPAIR-- I'LL LEAVE A **CLUE** FOR YOU TO TRACK ME DOWN-- IF YOU **DARE**!



AS IF THOSE TAUNTING WORDS ARE A SPUR TO THEIR PRIDE, THE **MASKED MANHUNTER** AND **TEEN-AGE THUNDER** BOLT LEAP FROM THE **BATMOBILE**...

OUR SPECIALLY TREATED WINDSHIELD REDUCED MOST OF THAT GLARE!

I CAN SEE WELL ENOUGH TO ZERO IN ON SOMEBODY'S JAW--



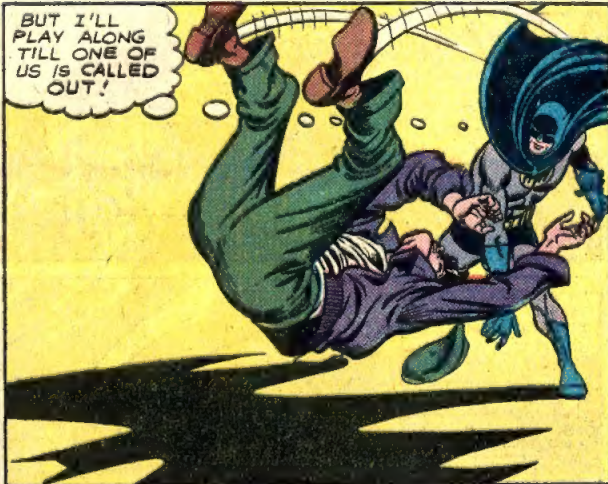
-- JUST LIKE A GUIDED MISSILE WITH WARHEAD KNUCKLES!



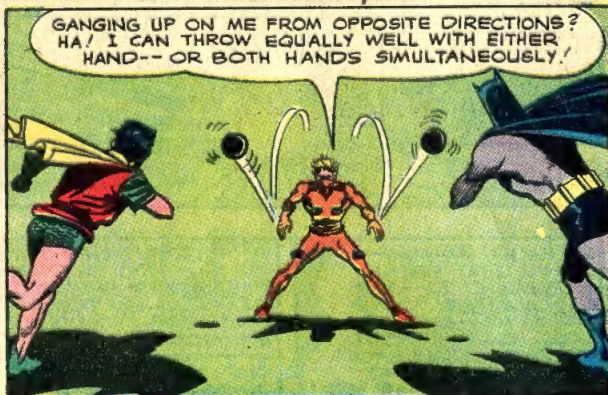
THE COWLED CRUSADER JUDO-
CATCHES A SECOND MAN...

THIS GAME IS GOING
TOO EASY FOR US--
SO FAR!

BUT I'LL
PLAY ALONG
TILL ONE OF
US IS CALLED
OUT!



GANGING UP ON ME FROM OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS?
HA! I CAN THROW EQUALLY WELL WITH EITHER
HAND-- OR BOTH HANDS SIMULTANEOUSLY!



STORY CONTINUES ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING...

DON'T
HESITATE--
CHOOSE...

The MAGS
with the

GO-GO
CHECKS!

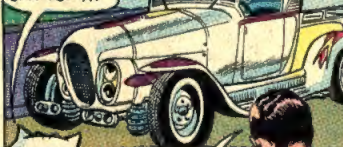


KAT corners the KING!

The KAT
from AMT

VISITS GEORGE
BARRIS, KING OF
THE KUSTOMIZERS,
IN HIS
HOLLYWOOD
CUSTOM
SHOP...

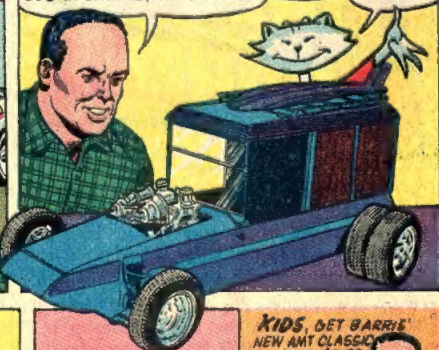
YOUR CLASSIC KUSTOM "ALA KART" IS A
BEAUTY, GEORGE. JUST WAIT'LL YOU SEE
AMT'S NEW "ALA
KART" KIT. NOBODY
CAN TOP IT!



YEAH, THE KATS SURE
DIG MY CUSTOM
'29 FORD, KAT!

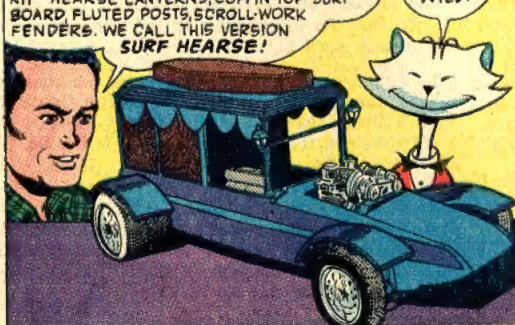
AND HERE'S MY NEWEST AMT KUSTOM
KIT--SURF WOODY. HOW'S IT GRAB YOU,
KAT? DOUBLE SLICK TIRES, SUPERCHARGED
COBRA ENGINE, THE WORKS!

GRR-REAT!



AND SEE THE EXTRAS IN THE SURF WOODY
KIT--HEARSE LANTERNS, COFFIN-TOP SURF-
BOARD, FLUTED POSTS, SCROLL-WORK
FENDERS. WE CALL THIS VERSION
SURF HEARSE!

THAT'S
WILD.



... YOU GET ALL THESE
OTHER PARTS, TOO.

KIDS, GET BARRIS'
NEW AMT CLASSIC
ALA KART \$2.00

KRAZY
MAN!

FRENCH PHONE



BOTTLE-GLASS REAR WINDOW
PLUS CEMENT-SLAB DECAL FOR
ROOF, MARBLE SLAB DECAL
FOR SIDES, WILD "JOY STICK"
SHIFTER, EVEN AN INSTRUMENT-
PANEL TAPE RECORDER!

AND GET AMT'S
SURF WOODY KIT, WITH
ENOUGH EXTRA PARTS
TO TURN IT INTO A
WILD SURF HEARSE.

Only
\$2.00

THE KAT
FROM AMT

AMT CORPORATION
BOX 81,
TROY, MICHIGAN



SUPERBOY FANS!

IF YOU DIG THE
BOY OF STEEL
IN SOLO ACTION, WAIT'LL
YOU GET A LOAD OF THE
SUPER-THRILLS WHEN HE TEAMS
UP WITH THESE SUPER-GUESTS--

MON-EL,
THE WONDER-BOY FROM DAXAM--
BEFORE HE JOINED THE
LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES!

SUPERGIRL,
SUPERBOY'S
KRYPTONIAN COUSIN!

VIDAL,
THE KENTS'
SECOND SUPER-SON!

KID KRYPTON,
THE SUPER-LAD WHO'S
SMARTER than SUPERBOY!

and **DWORN,**
THE SUPER-WEAKLING
WITH THE GOLDEN TOUCH!



Extra! SUPERBOY BECOMES
HIS OWN RIVAL IN...
"The TWO BOYS of STEEL!" ALL in

ON SALE MARCH 10th

DIRECT CURRENTS

Hi, DC fans! Here's another preview peek at the Dynamic Concoction of action, thrills and laughs we've whipped up to tickle your adventure taste-buds in the weeks to come. Read 'em and see what we mean!

It's wild—it's woolly—it's downright illegal! That's all we can say about the latest team-up in **THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD** No. 66, featuring **METAMORPHO** and the **METAL MEN**! Can you ask for anything more? **June-July issue**, on sale April 26.

ULTRA, THE MULTI-ALIEN, finds his powers practically useless against the invasion of two alien giants, and has to come up with the big pitch to strike 'em "The Colossal Creatures!" **June MYSTERY IN SPACE**, No. 108, on sale April 26.

You're in for a weird treat when you read the astounding cover story in the June-July **TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED**—"I Was a Prisoner of Death!" And don't reveal the **UNEXPECTED** "Secret of Chameleo-Man!" No. 95, on sale April 19.

It's the super-scoop of the century! In the **June 80 PAGE GIANT**, **SUPERMAN** unlocks the secrets of his **FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE** . . . including a look at the **FORTRESS** as it first appeared, way back in 1942! No. 187, on sale April 14.

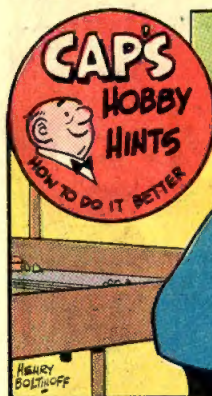
It isn't a hoax or a dream, but the real McCoy! You're invited to the world's wildest wedding party, along with **SUPERMAN**, **BATMAN**, **FLASH** and **WONDER WOMAN**, in the June **DOOM PATROL**, No. 104, when **ELASTI-GIRL** marries **MENTO**! On sale April 19.

Four men dared to ride on a wild merry-go-round contraption, in a gamble with death—for only one of them could be the winner . . . the others were doomed by "The Monster-Go-Round!" **June STRANGE ADVENTURES**, No. 189, on sale April 28.

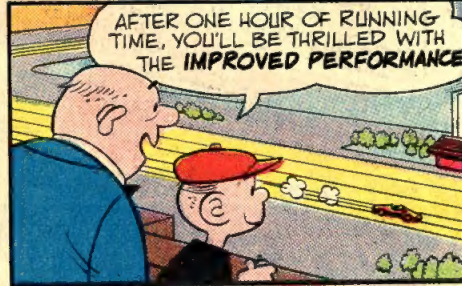
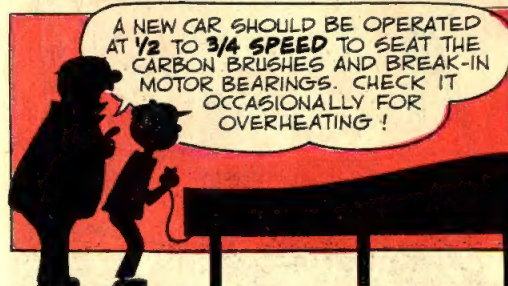
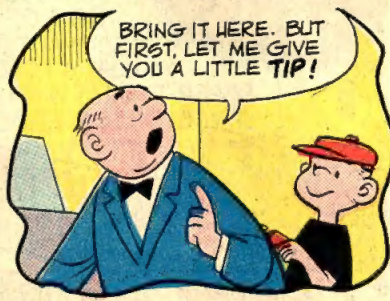
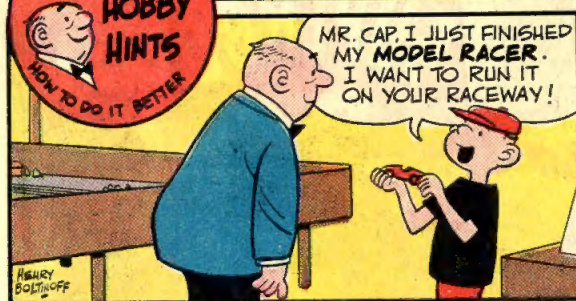
GREEN LANTERN of **EARTH-ONE** teams up with his **EMERALD CRUSADER** counterpart of **EARTH-TWO** to stave off . . . "Prince Peril's Power Play!" A **DOUBLE-GL** blockbuster in the June issue, No. 45, on sale April 12.

She looked like a million—and stole ten times as much! And when she came to grips with **BATMAN**, he had plenty of reason to . . . "Beware of—**POISON IVY**!" She's in the June issue of **BATMAN**, No. 181, on sale April 19.

TUNNEL OF HORRORS—ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK! That warning was good enough for **THE FLASH**—for he knew that he'd be **KILLED** if he entered . . . "The Corridor of Chills!" In the June issue, No. 162, on sale April 19.



KIDS! MAIL IN YOUR HOBBY HINTS TO: CAP'S NATIONAL COMICS,
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IF PUBLISHED, YOU WILL RECEIVE \$5 AND THE ORIGINAL ART.

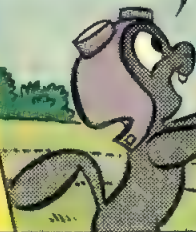


CUT OUT FOR YOUR SCRAPBOOK

ROCKY and BULLWINKLE

ARE **CHEERIOS**
YOUR FAVORITE
CEREAL,
BULLWINKLE?

SURE
THING,
OLD
SKATE!

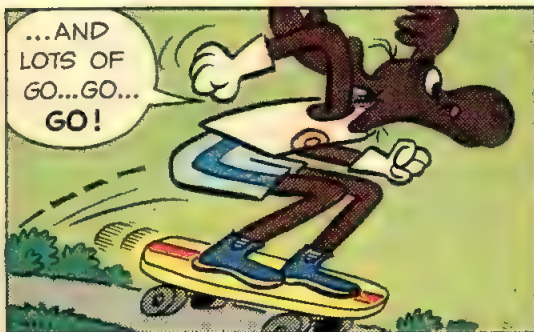


CHEERIOS 'N' MILK GIVE
US PEOPLE MUSCLE-MAKIN'
PROTEIN...



GENERAL MILLS

...AND
LOTS OF
GO...GO...
GO!



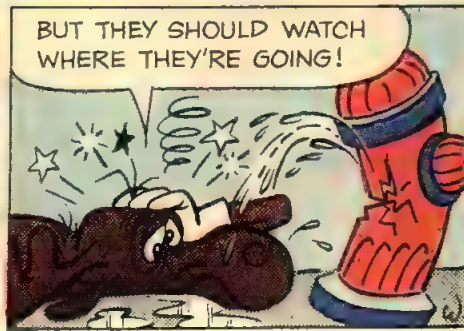
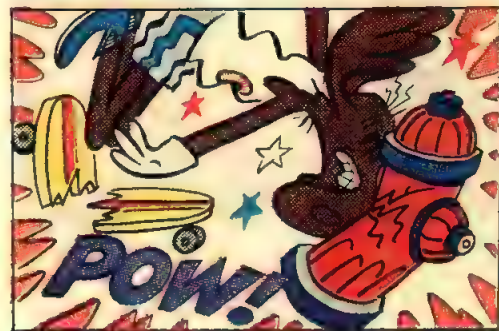
DO YOU MEAN THAT EVERYONE
SHOULD GO WITH THE GOODNESS
OF **CHEERIOS**?

ZOOM!

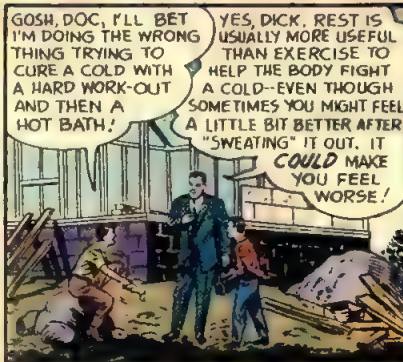
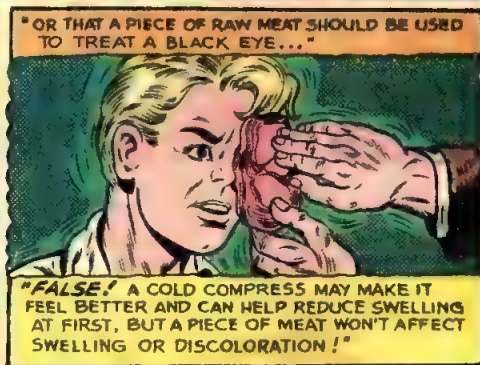
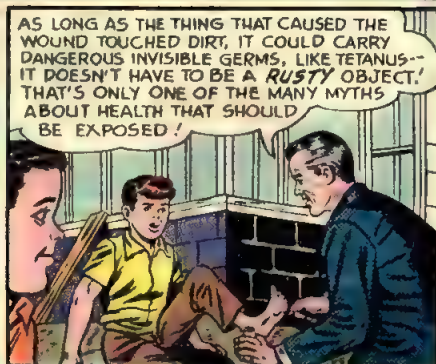
RIGHTO,
ROCK!



BUT THEY SHOULD WATCH
WHERE THEY'RE GOING!



HEALTH MYTHS DEBUNKED!

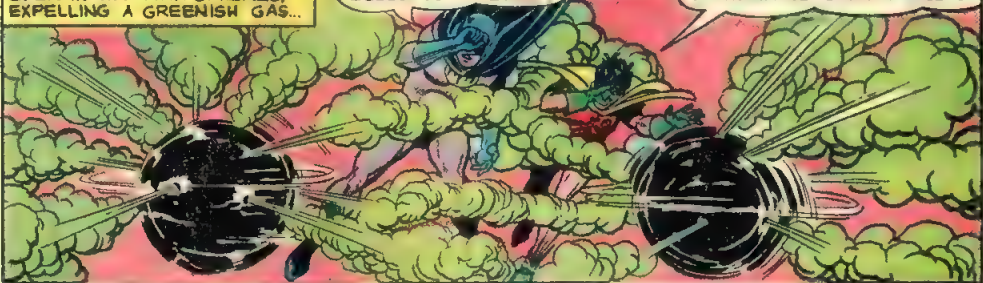


THE CLUEMASTER'S TOPSY-TURVY CRIMES! PART 2

THE NEXT INSTANT--TINY VENTS OPEN IN THE TWIN SPHERES, EXPELLING A GREENISH GAS...

DON'T BREATHE, ROBIN--AND CLOSE YOUR EYES!

MAN, THAT CLUEMASTER'S A WALKING UTILITY BELT!



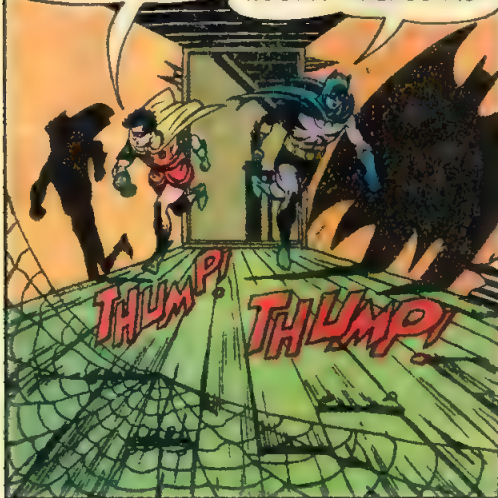
THE GAS-BALLS WILL DELAY THEM LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO MAKE OUR GETAWAY THROUGH THIS ABANDONED BUILDING--PRECISELY ACCORDING TO PLAN!



MOMENTS LATER, BOOTED FEET POUND THE OLD FLOORBOARDS LIKE ROLLING THUNDER...

WE HEARD THEM RACE INTO THIS BUILDING! BUT LOOKS AS IF THEY'VE GIVEN US THE SLIP-- A "REJECTION SLIP"!

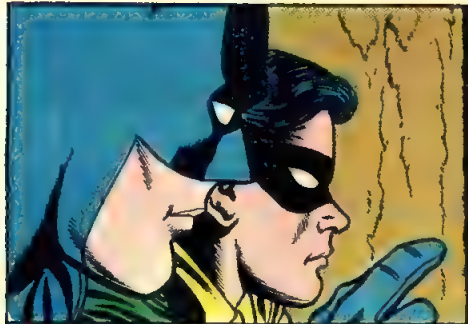
THEY COULDN'T HAVE DISAPPEARED INTO THIN AIR! THEY'VE GOT TO BE SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE! LOOK FOR HIDDEN PASSAGeways--



ROBIN-- I FOUND IT! A ROTATING SECRET PANEL, IN THE WALL!

AND THERE'S SOMETHING ON ITS REVERSE SIDE!





YOU MISSED YOUR FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO CAPTURE ME, BATMAN! IF YOU WANT A SECOND CHANCE-- SOLVE THIS CLUE!



IT'S A TIROFF TO WHERE MY NEXT CRIME WILL TAKE PLACE-- 24 HOURS FROM NOW!
THE CLUEMASTER!

MOMENTS LATER, IN HIS NEARBY HIDE-OUT, THE CLUEMASTER GLOATS...

THE STAGE IS ALL SET! I AM COMPLETELY CONFIDENT THAT BATMAN WILL SOLVE THAT CLUE AND APPEAR TOMORROW NIGHT AT THE GOTHAM COLISEUM FOR ITS ARABIAN NIGHTS EXHIBIT!

THE SELF-STYLED CLEVER CRIMINAL WHO PLYS HIS TRADE IN GOTHAM CITY EITHER CONCENTRATES ON ROBBING WITHOUT GETTING CAUGHT BY BATMAN-- OR SETS A TRAP TO CATCH AND KILL BATMAN! BUT THEY ALL HAVE TWO STRIKES ON THEM BEFORE THEY START-- JUST BECAUSE HE IS BATMAN!!

A PSYCHOLOGICAL HANDICAP INVARIABLY KEEPS THEM FROM SUCCEEDING! BATMAN'S PERFECT RECORD OF CROOK-CATCHING AND TRAP-ESCAPING PUTS THEM IN A DEFEAT-FRAME OF MIND EVEN BEFORE THEY TRY! JUST AS BABE RUTH STRIDING TO THE PLATE USED TO TERRORIZE PITCHERS-- OR AS SANDY KOUFAX ON THE MOUND DOMINATES THE METS!

BUT THE PLAN I'VE DEvised IS THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN OVERCOME THIS "BATMANIA"! IT'S SIMPLICITY ITSELF-- DISCOVER BATMAN'S SECRET IDENTITY AND SNEAK-ATTACK AND DISPOSE OF HIM IN HIS CIVILIAN GUISE, WHEN HE HAS THAT HANDICAP WORKING AGAINST HIM!



AN HOUR LATER, ALONG MARINE BOULEVARD...



THE FLARE-BOMB I HURLED AT THE BATMOBILE WAS ALSO DESIGNED TO RELEASE A SPECIAL CHEMICAL TO COAT ITS TIRES-- LEAVING AN "INVISIBLE" TRAIL TO BATMAN'S SECRET HIDE-OUT!

SOON THE CLUEMASTER'S CAR IS HURTLING ALONG THE MAIN HIGHWAY ON THE BETRAYING TIRE-TREAD TRAIL...

ONCE I LEARN WHERE HIS **BATCAVE** IS, IT'LL BE A CINCIN TO SEE HIS MASK-LESS FEATURES AND DISCOVER HIS CIVILIAN IDENTITY! THEN I'LL GET RID OF--HUH?

THE TIRE-TRACKS-- COME TO AN ABRUPT END IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HIGHWAY!

MAYBE **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** ARE **ALIENS** FROM ANOTHER WORLD AND THE **BATMOBILE** IS REALLY A **SPACESHIP** THAT SUDDENLY TOOK OFF!

NONSENSE! ALREADY YOU'RE LETTING YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS FEAR OF **BATMAN** GRAB YOU! I TELL YOU-- **BATMAN'S** SMART! OBVIOUSLY, HE FIGURED OUT WHAT I DID TO HIS TIRES AND CONCEALED THE TRACKS IN SOME WAY! BUT THAT DOESN'T FAZE ME! THAT'S WHY I GAVE HIM THAT CLUE TO LURE HIM TO US-- TOMORROW NIGHT! SO WE CAN TRY AGAIN!

MEANTIME, ON A CUSHION OF COMPRESSED AIR, THE **BATMOBILE** FLOATS SAFELY INTO THE **BATCAVE**, LEAVING **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** UNAWARE THAT THEY HAVE MISLEAD MORE THAN AUNT HARRIET...

FOR A LONG WHILE THEY STUDY THE CLUE OF THE PANEL PAINTING THEY HAVE BROUGHT WITH THEM...

HOW YOU DOIN'? I'M BATTING ZERO--

SAME HERE! MAYBE OUR NEW FOE'S TRYING TO CROSS US UP WITH A "NOTHING" CLUE!

NEXT EVENING FINDS THE **DYNAMIC DUO** ONCE AGAIN ON PATROL, WHEN--

BATMAN--OVER THERE! GLASS BREAKING IN THAT TELEVISION STORE FRONT!

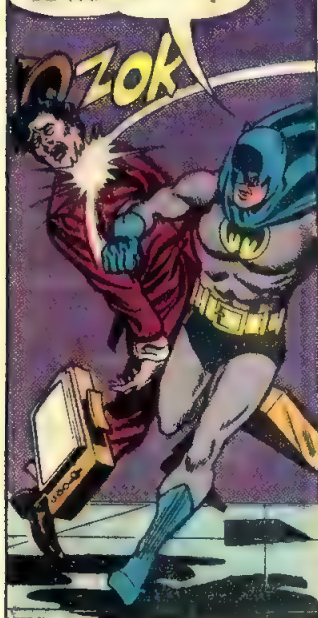
TOONKILL

WE NOW INTERRUPT
THIS PROGRAM TO
BRING YOU A
SPECIAL BULLETIN--
ROBIN'S HERE--

OWWFF!



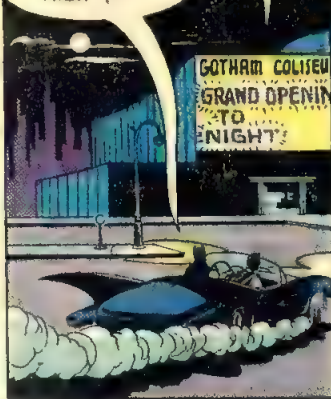
--SO CAN BATMAN
BE FAR BEHIND?



AFTER ESCORTING THEIR
PRISONERS TO THE NEAREST
POLICE PRECINCT, THE **BAT-**
MOBILE CONTINUES ITS
PATROL AS IT APPROACHES
THE **GOOTHAM COLISEUM...**

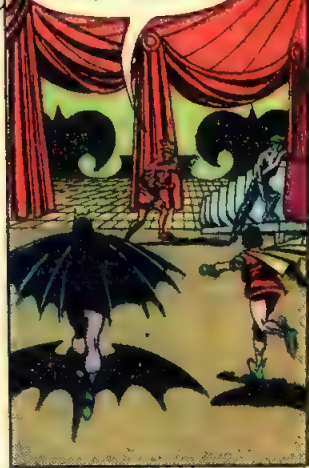
TAKE A LOOK AT
THE MARQUEE!
THE GRAND
OPENING OF THE
ARABIAN NIGHTS
EXHIBIT ISN'T
UNTIL TOMORROW
NIGHT!

IT MIGHT BE
WORTH
INVESTIGATING!
LET'S GO-GO!



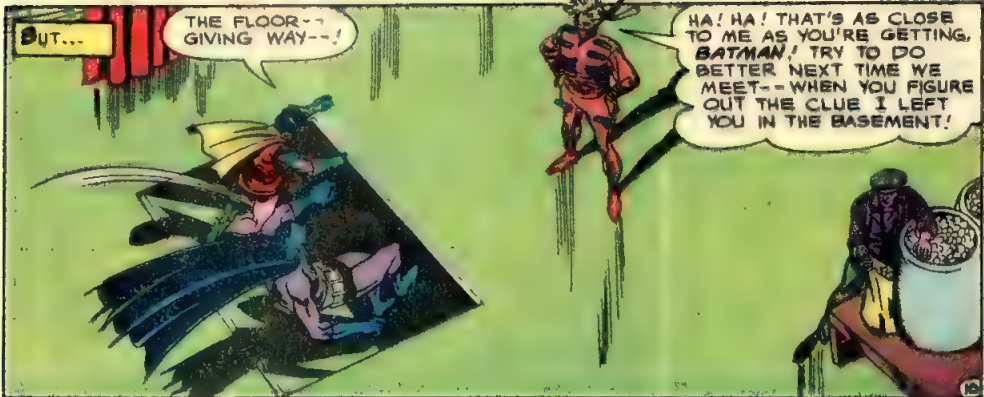
HERE IN THE VAST SPACES OF
THE **GOOTHAM COLISEUM** HAS
BEEN SET UP AN ENCHANTED
FAIRYLAND OF ORIENTAL
OPULENCE...

HERE THEY COME! I
TOLD YOU **BATMAN**
WOULD FIGURE OUT
THAT CLUE I LEFT
FOR HIM!



OUT...

THE FLOOR--
GIVING WAY--!



IN THE STYGIAN DARKNESS
BELOW...

THERE'S
THE CLUE--
A LUMINOUS
PAINTING OF
A SEA
SERPENT!

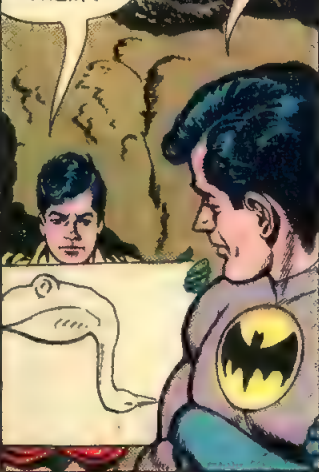
WHY IS HE
BRAZENLY
LEAVING US
THESE CLUES?
HE COULD ROB
AND WE'D
NEVER KNOW
IT! WHAT **DEEPER**
GAME IS HE
PLAYING?



WHEN THEY MAKE THEIR WAY
BACK TO THE BATCAVE...

WE MUST
BE SLIPPIN'!
TWO CLUES
TO WORK
ON--AND
WE CAN'T
MAKE HEAD
OR TAIL OF
THEM!

HEAD OR TAIL--
BUT HOW
ABOUT **OTHER**
POSSIBLE
ANGLES?



OKAY! I'LL
TURN THIS
THING ON
ITS SIDE--
THEN UPSIDE
DOWN--

HOLD IT!
WHAT WE
THOUGHT
WAS A SEA
SERPENT--
IS NOW A
DUCK! IN A
TOPSY-TURVY
POSITION, THE
DRAWING BECOMES
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT!



UPSIDE DOWN,
THIS **FIRST**
CLUE NOW
SHOWS THE
FORTY JARS
OF THE
ARABIAN
NIGHTS
STORY IN
WHICH THE
FORTY THIEVES
OF **ALI BABA**
HID!

THAT'S IT!
WE'RE
SUPPOSED
TO TURN
THOSE CLUES
UPSIDE DOWN
TO UNDERSTAND
THEM! IF WE
FIGURED OUT
THE FIRST
ONE, WE'D
HAVE GONE
STRAIGHT TO
THE **ARABIAN**
NIGHTS EXHIBIT--
INSTEAD OF JUST
BLUNDERING IN
THERE BECAUSE
THE "NIGHT"
LIGHTS HAPPENED
TO BE OUT!



LATER, AS THEY LEAVE THE
"CLOSET-ELEVATOR" BY THE
SLIDING WALL PANEL...

THERE'S A
DUCK MARINA
ALONG THE
THE WATER-
FRONT! WE'LL
BE ALL SET
FOR THE
CLUEMASTER
TOMORROW
NIGHT--

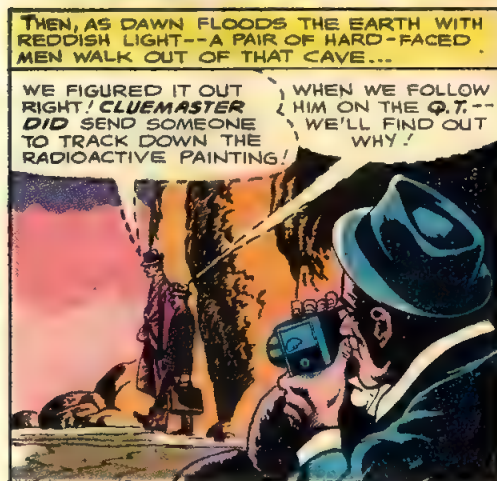
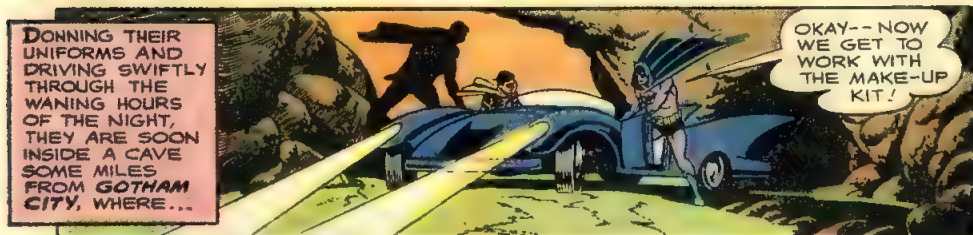
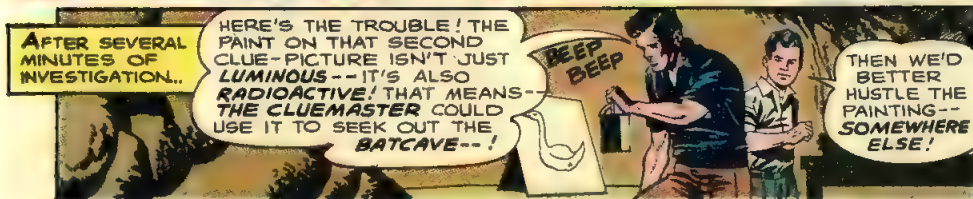
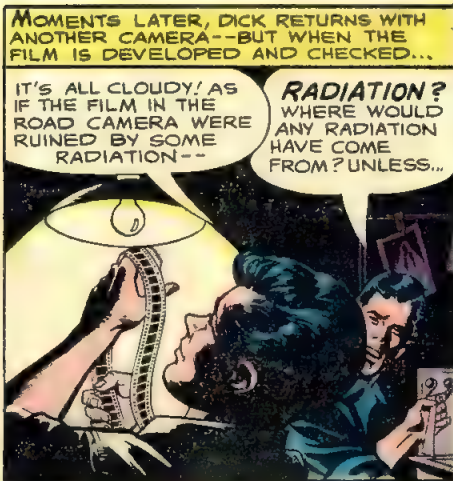
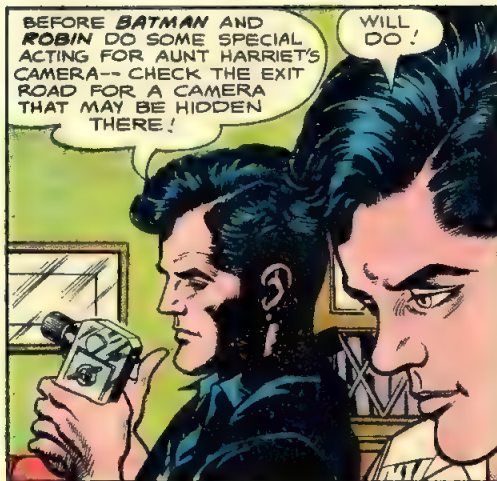
LISTEN!
YOU HEAR
THAT?
SOUNDS
LIKE A
MOVIE
CAMERA--



FOUND IT,
BRUCE--
HIDDEN IN
THIS CHANDELIER!
IT WAS TAKING
PICTURES OF
US AS WE
LEFT THE
ELEVATOR--

IT'S AUNT
HARRIET'S
WORK--
PLAYING
DETECTIVE!
COME ON
BACK TO THE
BATCAVE!
SHE ISN'T
GOING TO
EXPOSE US
THAT **EASILY!**





THUS IT IS THE
CLUEMASTER
WHO IS CAUGHT
BY SURPRISE
WHEN --

YOU FOUND MY
HIDE-OUT--?

WHY NOT!
YOU GAVE US
A CLUE!

SHIELD ME! I'LL
GET YOU OUT
OF THIS--!

B-BUT, BOSS--YOU
TOLD US NO ONE'S
GOT A CHANCE OF
BEATIN' BATMAN--

THUD!



EVEN AS THAT GLASS-BOMB HURTTLES THROUGH
THE AIR, ROBIN LEAPS FORWARD TO INTERCEPT
IT...

GET HIM, BATMAN!
DON'T MIND ME!

AS THE CLUEMASTER DROPS, THE COWLED
CRUSADER--HEART IN HIS MOUTH!--WHIRLS
TOWARD THE BOY WONDER...

ROBIN!
ROBIN--?

I--I'M OKAY! WHEN
I SLAMMED THAT
BOMB INTO THE WALL--
I MUST'VE BROKEN
SOME MECHANISM INSIDE
IT--SO IT DIDN'T REACH
ITS FULL POWER...
LUCKILY FOR ME!



IN THE POLICE STATION, SOON AFTER...

YOU'VE CAPTURED ME, BATMAN-- BUT I HOLD THE TRUMP CARD AGAINST YOU! I KNOW WHO YOU ARE AND WHEN I GET OUT--

HUH?

HERE'S WHERE OUR MASQUERADE BACK AT THE CAVE PAYS OFF!

HEY, YOU GUYS! HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN PENNED-UP IN HERE?

SINCE LAST NIGHT! BATMAN AND ROBIN PUT US HERE! THEN-- THESE TWO CAN'T BE BATMAN AND ROBIN! I'M WORSE OFF THAN WHEN I STARTED THIS CAPER!

NEXT MORNING WHEN AUNT HARRIET EXAMINES THE DEVELOPED FILMS FROM HER CAMERAS...

HMMPPPH! MY SUSPICIONS WERE UNFOUNDED! DICK AND BRUCE CAN'T BE ROBIN AND BATMAN!

SECURE IN THE BATCAVE, THE MASKED MANHUNTER AND BOY WONDER GRIP HANDS IN TRIUMPH...

WE FOOLED HER WITH THE SPECIAL TRICK FILM WE MADE AND SPLICED! BUT YOU KNOW-- WE'RE LUCKY AUNT HARRIET DID GET SUSPICIOUS! OTHERWISE THE CLUEMASTER MIGHT HAVE SUCCEEDED IN LEARNING OUR SECRET IDENTITIES!

I SUPPOSE SOME DAY WE'LL TELL AUNT HARRIET THE TRUTH, JUST AS WE DID WITH ALFRED!

FINALLY, LEAVE IT TO ROBIN TO COME UP WITH THE PERFECT ENDING TO THEIR ADVENTURE...

HERE, BATMAN-- I'VE GOT A TOSPY-TURVY FOR YOU! WHAT DOES IT SHOW--?

A PUZZLE! BUT TURN IT UPSIDE DOWN AND IT SAYS--

THE END

THE END

The ELONGATED Man

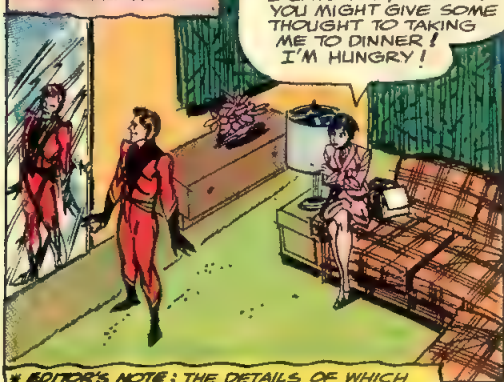
WHAT DOES A SUPER-HERO DO WITH AN OLD, OUTMODED UNIFORM? WHEN HE HAPPENS TO BE THE ELONGATED MAN, THE DECISION IS MADE FOR HIM--BY A CROOK WHO STEALS HIS COSTUME AND USES IT TO COMMIT A SENSATIONAL SERIES OF CRIMES!

THE CASE OF THE COSTUMED-MADE CROOK!



IN A ROADSIDE MOTEL,
MIDWAY BETWEEN
COAST CITY AND
CENTRAL CITY...

WHEN YOU'RE THROUGH
ADMIRING YOURSELF
IN THE NEW UNIFORM
I GAVE YOU, * DARLING--
YOU MIGHT GIVE SOME
THOUGHT TO TAKING
ME TO DINNER!
I'M HUNGRY!



* EDITOR'S NOTE: THE DETAILS OF WHICH
APPEARED IN THE PREVIOUS ISSUE OF
DETECTIVE COMICS.

YESSIEEE-- MY OLD UNIFORM AND I
SHARED SOME GREAT ADVENTURES
TOGETHER! BEFORE WE PART COMPANY,
I'LL TAKE ONE LAST LOOK AT IT
AND-- HEYYY!
IT'S GONE!
SOMEBODY STOLE
THE UNIFORM!



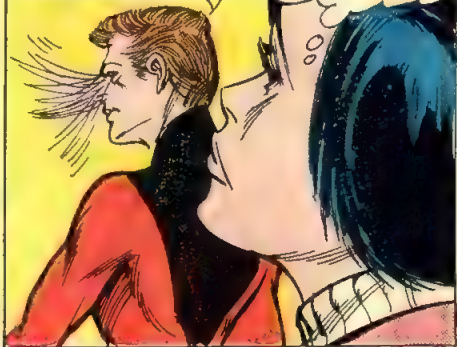
OKAY, DEAR! BUT YOU'VE
GOT TO ADMIT I CAME
UP WITH A TERRIFIC IDEA
TO DONATE MY ORIGINAL
COSTUME TO THE FLASH
MUSEUM IN CENTRAL
CITY-- IN APPRECIATION
FOR HAVING STARTED
MY ELONGATED MAN
CAREER THERE WITH
THE FLASH!

I'M
STARVED!



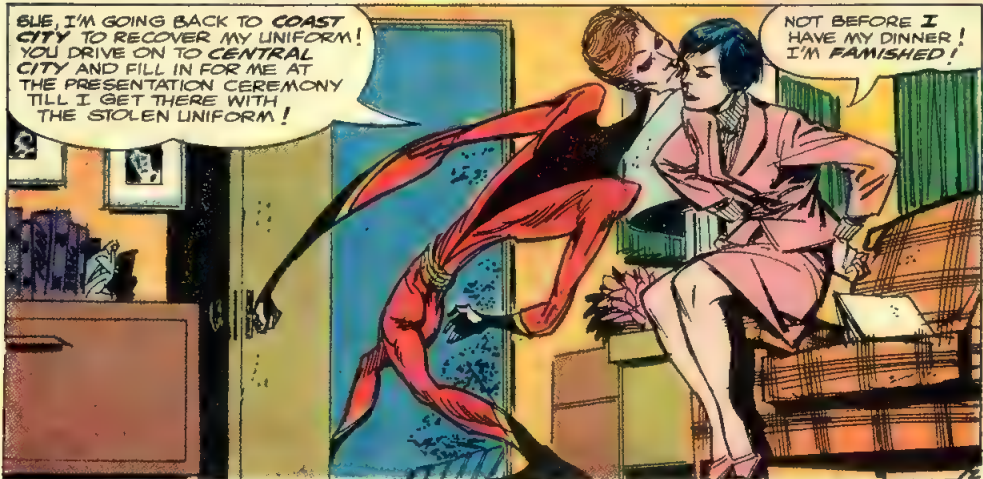
HOW--WHY-- WOULD
ANYONE DO A THING
LIKE THAT TO ME?!

THERE GOES
MY DINNER--
HE'S GOING
INTO HIS NOSE-
TWITCHING
ROUTINE...



BUE, I'M GOING BACK TO COAST
CITY TO RECOVER MY UNIFORM!
YOU DRIVE ON TO CENTRAL
CITY AND FILL IN FOR ME AT
THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY
TILL I GET THERE WITH
THE STOLEN UNIFORM!

NOT BEFORE I
HAVE MY DINNER!
I'M FAMISHED!



WITHIN THE HOUR, THE DUCTILE DETECTIVE IS HEADING WESTWARD IN A RENTED CAR ...

I'LL START MY INVESTIGATION WITH THE HOTEL BELLHOP--HE FIGURES TO BE MY NUMBER ONE SUSPECT! HE'S THE LAST ONE WHO HANDLED OUR SUITCASES WHEN HE CARRIED THEM DOWN--ALONE--TO THE CAR!



EARLY NEXT MORNING, AT THE COAST CITY HOTEL ...

I'M SORRY, SIR--BUT BILLY BROWN, THE BELLHOP, IS NO LONGER WITH US! HE QUIT--JUST AFTER YOU CHECKED OUT YESTERDAY!

A SUSPICIOUS MOVE, IF EVER I SAW ONE! HE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO STEAL THAT STRETCH-NYLON OUTFIT OF MINE--BUT FOR WHAT REASON?



HIS NEXT STOP IS AT A NEWS-PAPER OFFICE ...

YOUR PHOTOGRAPHERS TOOK SOME PICTURES OF ME IN THE HOTEL LOBBY WHEN I DONNED MY NEW UNIFORM! MAY I SEE THEM?

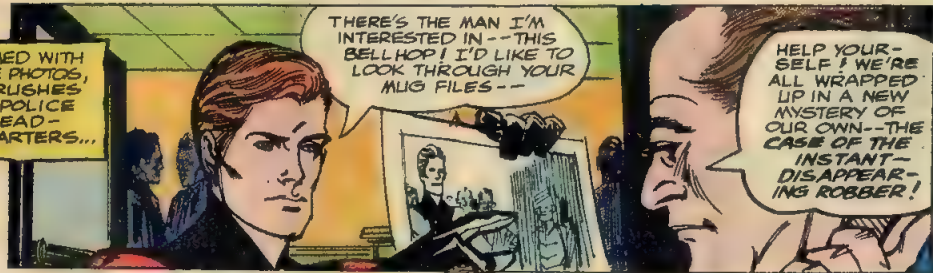
OF COURSE! I'LL HAVE A FEW COPIES RUN OFF FOR YOU!



ARMED WITH THE PHOTOS, HE RUSHES TO POLICE HEAD-QUARTERS...

THERE'S THE MAN I'M INTERESTED IN--THIS BELLHOP! I'D LIKE TO LOOK THROUGH YOUR MUG FILES--

HELP YOURSELF! WE'RE ALL WRAPPED UP IN A NEW MYSTERY OF OUR OWN--THE CASE OF THE INSTANT-DISAPPEARING ROBBER!



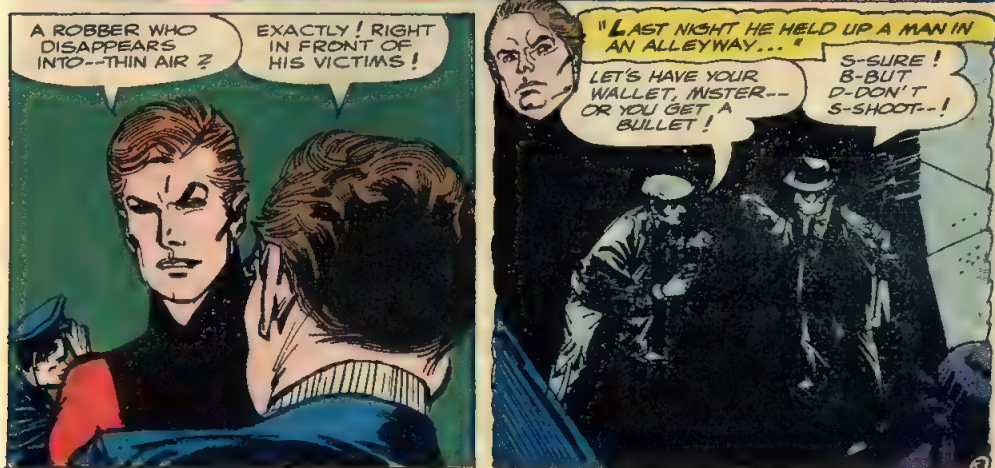
A ROBBER WHO DISAPPEARS INTO--THIN AIR?

EXACTLY! RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIS VICTIMS!

"LAST NIGHT HE HELD UP A MAN IN AN ALLEYWAY..."

LET'S HAVE YOUR WALLET, MISTER--OR YOU GET A BULLET!

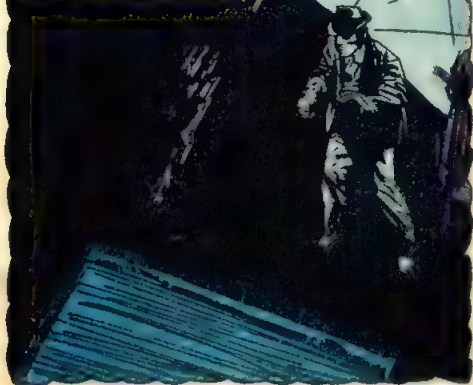
S-SURE! B-BUT D-DON'T S-SHOOT--!



"ONE MOMENT
THE CROOK WAS
TAKING THE
WALLET OUT
OF THE HAND
OF HIS
VICTIM..."



"NEXT MOMENT
THE MAN WAS
GONE--WITHOUT
A TRACE!--"



HEY! WHERE'D
HE DISAPPEAR
TO--?

"AN HOUR LATER, THE CROOK
MADE AN EVEN MORE SEN-
SATIONAL APPEARANCE AT
THE OPEN WINDOW OF A
TWENTY-FIFTH STORY
APARTMENT..."

JUST PASS OVER
YOUR VALLABLES--
AND DON'T BOTHER
TO KISS 'EM
GOOD-BYE!



"ARMED WITH THE
LOOT, HE DISAPPEARED
AS SUDDENLY AND
MYSTERIOUSLY AS HE
HAD APPEARED..."

WHERE'D
HE GO?
HE
COULDN'T
HAVE
JUMPED
DOWN!

NOR
COULD
HE HAVE
CLIMBED
UP!
THERE'S
NO SPACE
FOR
FINGERS
OR TOES
TO GRIP
THESE
SMOOTH
WALLS!



AS THE DETECTIVE FINISHES
HIS TALE...

WE SURE
COULD USE
YOUR HELP!
TOO BAD
YOU HAVE
A CASE OF
YOUR OWN
TO WORK
ON--

LIEUTENANT,
YOUR CASE IS
MY CASE!
YOU'VE TOLD
ME WHY MY
OLD UNIFORM
WAS STOLEN!



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.



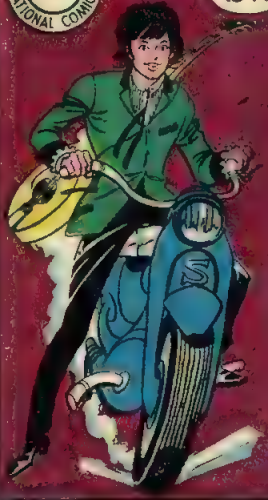
Super-HERO
JOINS THE **Super-FREAKS!**
IT'S THE **WEIRDEST** DC TEAM-UP OF ALL TIME--AND IT HAPPENS IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF...
THE BRAVE-BOLD
NOW ON SALE!



Introducing **DEATH-MAN--**
THE MACABRE MENACE WHO PREPARED A GRAVE-FULL OF TROUBLE FOR
BATMAN and ROBIN in
'DEATH KNOCKS THREE TIMES'
A SHATTERING NOVEL OF SINISTER SUSPENSE!



LOOK, SUPERMAN!
IS IT A BIRD?
IS IT A PLANE?



NO--IT'S DC'S NEWEST SWINGIN' STAR--
SCOOTER!
EVERYBODY'LL DIG HIM!



Coming from
DC--COMICS
CAPITOL OF THE
WORLD...

The 1st
ISSUE OF
SWINGIN'

SCOOTER
A MAY-JUNE
SHOWCASE
PRESENTATION

NOW ON SALE

ON SALE IN MARCH



THE STRETCHABLE SLEUTH TAKES UP THE NARRATIVE:
 "AS I SEE IT, THE ROBBER TIED ONE END OF MY STRETCH-NYLON UNIFORM TO AN AIR-VENT STRUT ON A ROOF..."

"BY STRAINING FORWARD, HE RESISTED THE TUG OF THE STRETCH-NYLON..."

TO GET AWAY, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS RELAX-- AND LET THE UNIFORM SNAP ME UP AND AWAY SO FAST THIS GUY WON'T SEE A THING!

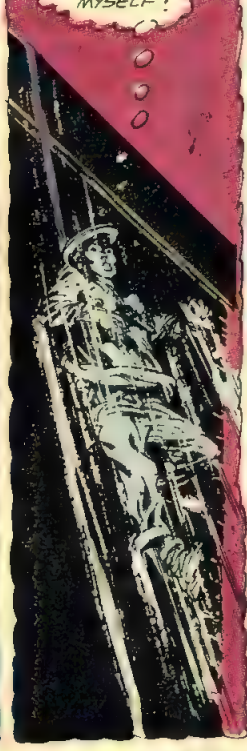
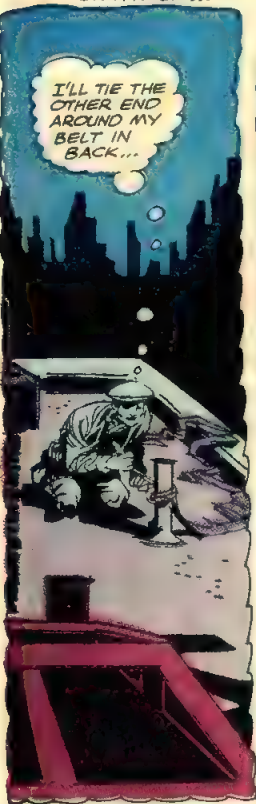
"THE UNIFORM MATERIAL ACTED LIKE A SUPER-RUBBER BAND, YANKING HIM INSTANTLY OUT OF SIGHT!..."

NOW TO GRAB HOLD OF THE AIR-VENT PIPE ON THE ROOF AND STOP MYSELF!

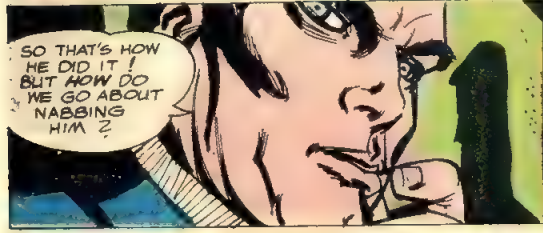
"HE PROBABLY PULLED A SIMILAR STUNT FROM THE APARTMENT ROOF-TOP, WHEN HE STEPPED OUT OF THE WINDOW WITH HIS LOOT, THE UNIFORM PULLED HIM INTO THE AIR..."

I'LL ZIP OVER THE EDGE OF THE ROOF SO FAST NOBODY WILL SEE ME! I'LL WHIP OFF MY BELT WHEN I LAND AND COME TO A SAFE STOP!

I'LL TIE THE OTHER END AROUND MY BELT IN BACK...



SO THAT'S HOW HE DID IT! BUT HOW DO WE GO ABOUT NABbing HIM?



I'LL HELP YOU OUT THERE! GET ME ON A POLICE HELICOPTER SO I CAN SEARCH THE CITY FROM UP ABOVE! WHEN I SPOT BROWN-- I'LL TAKE OVER--!



THAT NIGHT, AS DARKNESS VEILS THE STREETS OF COAST CITY...



LAST NIGHT, BROWN ROBBED WITHIN A HALF-MILE RADIUS! IF HE USES THE SAME ROUTINE TONIGHT I STAND A GOOD CHANCE OF CAPTURING HIM!

SLOWLY THE NIGHT HOURS PASS. THEN-- A LITTLE PAST MIDNIGHT--A POLICE CALL IS RELAYED TO THE HOVERING CHOPPER...



FOR THE DUCTILE DETECTIVE TO ALIGHT FROM A WHIRLYBIRD IS AN EASY TASK ...

IF THE BELLHOP FOLLOWS THE M.O. HE SET ON THE FIRST NIGHT, HE'LL BE STRIKING AGAIN NEAR-BY!



FROM ROOFTOP TO ROOFTOP HE STRIDES-- "BINOCULAR" EYES SEARCHING EVERYWHERE ...

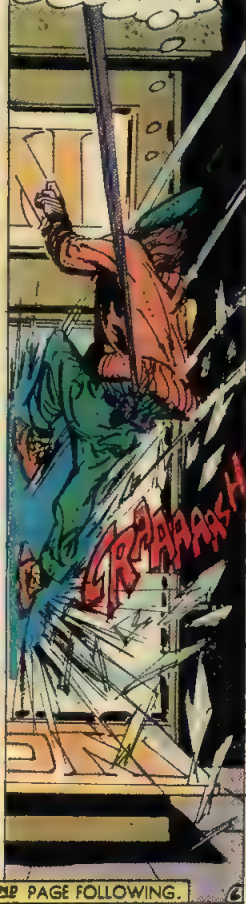
THERE HE GOES--!



LEAPING FROM A ROOFTOP, THE COSTUMED-CROOK DROPS TOWARD A JEWEL SALON WINDOW ...

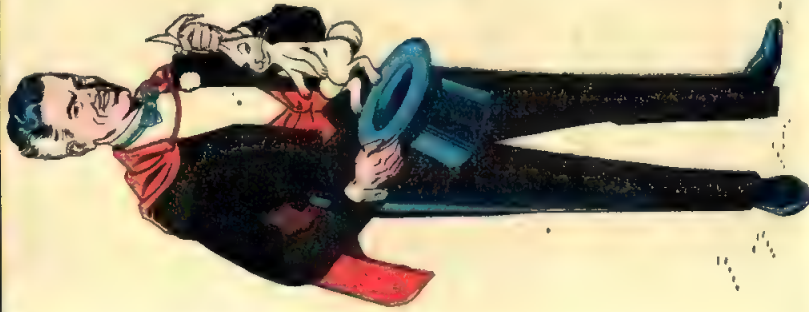


WHAT A GEM OF A LAYOUT FOR THE TAKING!



CONTINUED ON 258 PAGE FOLLOWING.

238 MAGIC TRICKS



REVEALED

NOTHING EXTRA TO BUY!

EVERY SINGLE TRICK IS PERFORMED WITH EVERYDAY THINGS YOU HAVE AROUND THE HOUSE... COINS, CARDS, BALLS, HANDKERCHIEFS, ROPES, etc.

"POSITIVELY ASTONISHING"

SAY PEOPLE WHO HAVE SEEN THIS COLLECTION. YOU'LL BE PLUCKING COINS FROM THIN AIR! YOU'LL CAUSE CARDS TO CHANGE THEIR SPOTS AT YOUR COMMAND! YOU'LL HEAR THE GASPS OF WONDER AS YOU DO THE WORLD-FAMOUS "INDIAN ROPE TRICK." YOU'LL ACTUALLY DO OVER **238** BAFFLING TRICKS, INCLUDING:

- THE VANISHING BALL
- THE MIND READING TRICK
- THE SECRET OF NUMBER 9
- PHANTOM WRITING
- GROWING MONEY TRICK
- THE COIN LEAPING TRICK
- DISAPPEARING HANDKERCHIEF
- THE KNOT THAT UNTIES ITSELF
- THE DISAPPEARING COIN
- MAKING A BALL ROLL BY ITSELF
- MIRACLE CARD JUMPING TRICK
- THE PHANTOM MONEY TRICK, etc.

ANYONE... 6 TO 60... CAN PERFORM THESE FEATS OF MAGIC... ONCE YOU KNOW THEIR SECRETS!

COMPLETE SECRETS REVEALED!

EVERY SINGLE TRICK FULLY EXPLAINED! YOU SAW SOME OF THEM ON TV. MANY WERE PERFORMED BY SUCH MASTER MAGICIANS AS HOUDINI, THURSTON, etc. AND NOW... **YOU** CAN DO ALL OF THESE FAMOUS MAGIC TRICKS. THEY'RE FUN!

ONLY **50¢** POSTPAID

MAIL TODAY

MAGIC TRICKS

TR-65

P.O. BOX 397, ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y.
RUSH ME MY MAGIC TRICKS FOR WHICH I HAVE ENCLOSED 50¢.

Send me 3 for only \$1.50 (check here) ☐

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HIS ROBBERY ACCOMPLISHED, BILLY BROWN REBOUNDS UPWARD-- JUST IN TIME TO MAKE CONTACT WITH ...

HERE'S A BOOSTER-- SHOT TO SEND YOU ON YOUR WAY!

POK!

THE STRETCH-NYLON GIVES TO THAT AWE-SOME BLOW AND...

HE'D GO INTO ORBIT--IF HE WASN'T TIED DOWN!

THE UNIFORM REACHES ITS FURTHEST POINT OF STRETCH AND BILL BROWN MENTARILY HANGS THERE, HIGH ABOVE THE CITY...

NOW TO INTERCEPT HIM ON THE WAY DOWN...

THRRUMMMM!

BUT AS THAT STRETCHABLE NYLON RAPIDLY RETRACTS-- BRINGING THE COSTUMED-CROOK DOWNWARD LIKE A LIVING CANNONBALL...

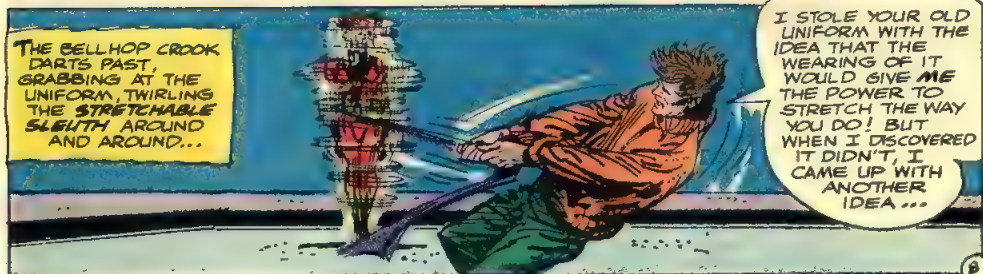
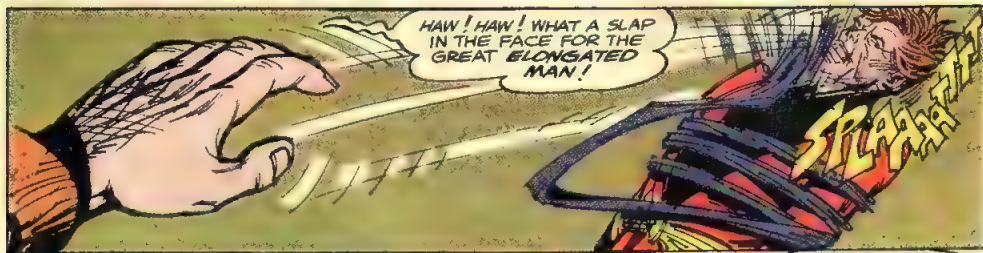
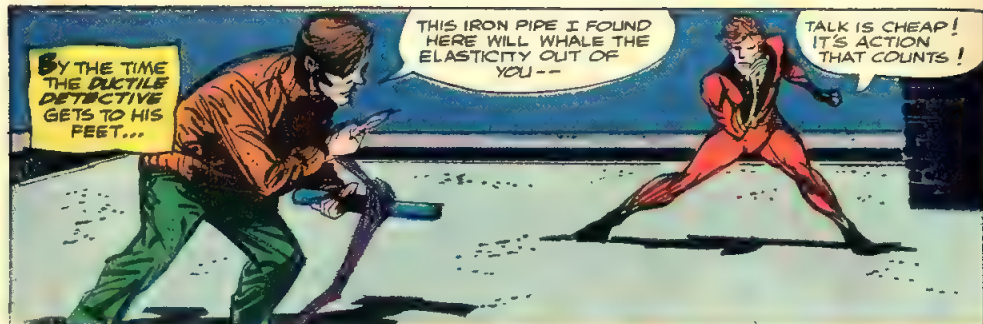
HE GOT HERE-- BEFORE I COULD BRACE MYSELF!

POW!

FOR A LONG MINUTE BOTH MEN LIE INERT-- THEN...

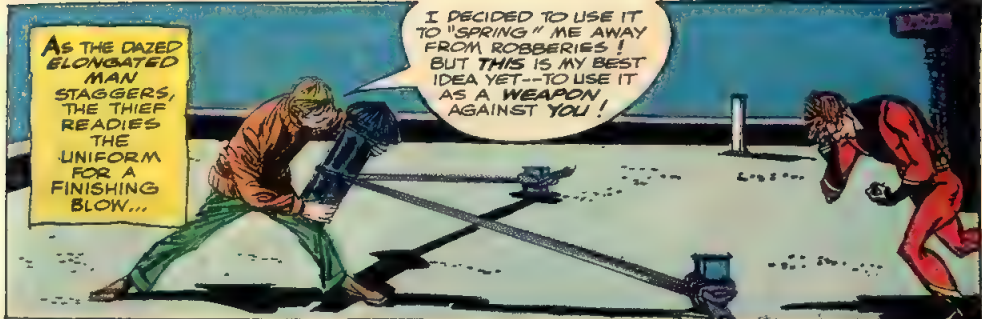
LUCKILY I CAME TO BEFORE HE DID! GIVES ME A CHANCE TO OVERCOME HIM-- USING HIS OLD UNIFORM AS A WEAPON--!

ONNN...



AS THE DAZED
ELONGATED
MAN
STAGGERS,
THE THIEF
READIES
THE
UNIFORM
FOR A
FINISHING
BLOW...

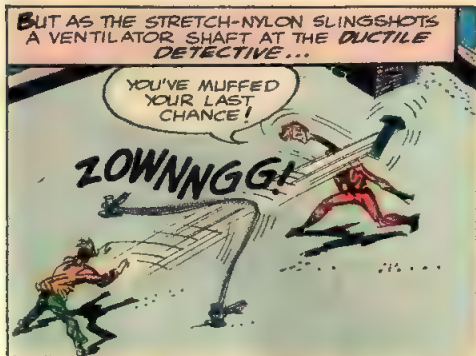
I DECIDED TO USE IT
TO "SPRING" ME AWAY
FROM ROBBERIES!
BUT THIS IS MY BEST
IDEA YET--TO USE IT
AS A WEAPON
AGAINST YOU!



BUT AS THE STRETCH-NYLON SLINGSHOTS
A VENTILATOR SHAFT AT THE DUCTILE
DETECTIVE...

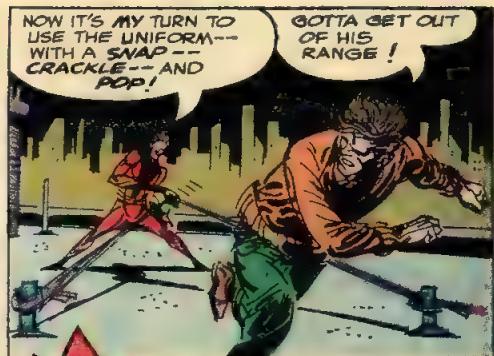
YOU'VE MUFFED
YOUR LAST
CHANCE!

ZOWNNGG!

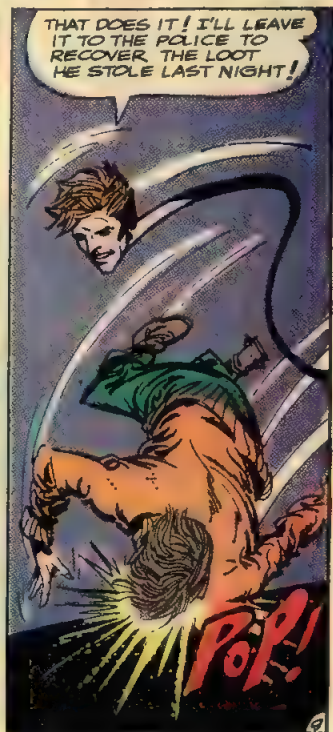


NOW IT'S MY TURN TO
USE THE UNIFORM--
WITH A SNAP--
CRACKLE-- AND
POP!

GOTTA GET OUT
OF HIS
RANGE!



THAT DOES IT! I'LL LEAVE
IT TO THE POLICE TO
RECOVER THE LOOT
HE STOLE LAST NIGHT!





NEXT DAY, AT
THE FLASH
MUSEUM
IN
CENTRAL
CITY...

EVERYTHING'S
READY, SUE!
WHERE IS
OUR GUEST
OF HONOR?

THE
PRESENTATION
CEREMONY'S
ABOUT TO
START--AND NO
RALPH! PLEASE,
DARLING, HURRY--
DON'T FAIL ME
NOW!



HERE I AM,
FLASH!
WITH MY GIFT
TO YOUR
MUSEUM!

TRUST THE
DUCTILE
DETECTIVE
TO DO THE
DRAMATIC
BIT WHEN HE
GETS THE
CHANCE!

MADE
IT--
JUST
IN
TIME!



LATER, IN THEIR HOTEL
ROOM, RALPH FILLS
SUE IN ON THE DETAILS...

BROWN TOOK THAT
BELLHOP JOB, EXPECTING
IT WOULD GIVE HIM AN
OPPORTUNITY TO ROB A
WEALTHY GUEST! BUT
WHEN HE SAW HIS
CHANCE TO STEAL MY
UNIFORM FROM THE
SUITCASE, HE TOOK IT--
IN THE MISTAKEN BELIEF
THE WEARING OF IT
WOULD GIVE HIM
ELONGATED
POWERS!



ALL OF WHICH PROVES,
DARLING-- THAT IT'S
THE MAN WHO MAKES
THE UNIFORM, NOT
THE UNIFORM THAT
MAKES THE
MAN!

HERE'S MORE
GOOD REASON
for **NOT** READING...

THE UNBELIEVABLE
MISADVENTURES OF

The **INFERIOR five**
(THE MOST
DEPLORABLE
COLLECTION
OF DUMB CLUCKS
IN DC'S HISTORY!)

**The WHITE
FEATHER**

(HE HAS
THE
COURAGE
OF A
LION--A
COWARDLY
LION!)

OUT IN THE
MAY-JUNE
ISSUE OF
SHOWCASE
ON SALE
MAR. 24th

BATMAN'S HOT-LINE

Dear Editor: When I looked at the cover of the January *Detective Comics*—POW! You could have knocked me over with a feather duster.

"Batman Killed!" I sat there shocked to the core. The cover was fabulous; the face of Robin showed real emotion. It is not very often that an artist can convey such utter sadness as was impressed on the Boy Wonder's features. Also the inset of Batman on the front page of the newspaper was marvelous—it was so much like a real photo.

As for the story itself, it was excitingly written and introducing author Gardner Fox to the reader in such a unique manner was masterful. I really enjoyed the idea of "What If" in your stories. If you want to run such a series you have my vote. —Brian Stewart, Northumberland, Eng.

(When we asked for reader reaction to the "What If" concept introduced in "The Strange Death of Batman," we anticipated a considerable increase over the usual amount of mail. "Considerable" doesn't do justice to the actual response—it ran into the thousands! The tally ran about 7 to 3 in favor—so you can look for a follow-up "What If" yarn sometime in the future. In the space remaining we shall *pro* and *con* you with samples of the mail. —Editor)

Dear Editor: The January *Detective* was very disappointing to me. The story started off at a good and promising clip. The downfall of the story was the presentation of the "What If" room. This sideline to the story greatly degraded the suspense and excitement built up by the preceding pages of the yarn. It drained the reality from the story and the belief compiled from subjection to the presence of a story for entertainment. All writers try to write their stories in such a way that the reader feels as though he is in its presence. Gardner Fox and John Broome and the other gifted writers of all the other fine DC magazines are no exception, and they succeed in doing so. I don't think that anything worse could have been done to ruin the image presented by the story. Well, in answer to your question of whether your readers would like to see future "What If" stories you can readily guess my answer, "No!" —Alan Trahern, Covington, Ind.

Dear Editor: I'm a terrible correspondent when it comes to giving remarks pertaining to the quality of a comic mag. I have 2,000 comics in my collection and have read them all, but none was out of the extraordinary for me to sit down and write till *Detective* 347. "The Strange Death of Batman" really shook me up. No doubt this story will surely become a collector's item. You got my vote for more "What If" stories. —David Esser, Wexford, Pa.

Dear Editor: "The surprise ending of "The Strange Death of Batman" was just that, a surprising, clever twist on an otherwise mediocre plot. The idea of having a "What If" room is unique, and although I, too, have often tried to imagine what life would be like if certain things happened or failed to occur,

it was a novel, amusing, and interesting idea. But as to the prospects of having more "What If" stories, I am less enthusiastic. In this issue, the theme served as a shock device, a clever and relatively harmless way to substantiate a sensational cover that plainly depicted a dead *Batman*. However, future "What If" tales would lead to repetition because readers would be expecting that the story was imaginary, and any surprise or shock ending would be lost. Therefore, I applaud its use this one time, but discourage any future stories of its type. —David Colton, Mt. Vernon, N.Y.

Dear Editor: Well, as they say, you have created the straw that broke the camel's back with *Detective* 347. It starts out as a promising story, then continues to a very disappointing ending. I realize that you cannot kill off the hero of the mag; it's just not done. But every story with promise and impact in the DC line can't be imaginary! It seems that the only time something really outstanding is put forth by you in regards to your continuing characters, it is imaginary (this is a generalization; your War comics and, usually, *Batman* are the exception.) In *Batman* the "real" stories are the best of the lot. Please, do not lower your high standard here by the use of "What If" stories. I sincerely hope you will discontinue this type of story as it is a disappointing (and cheap) way to sell magazines. —Martin Schwartz, Kew Gardens, N.Y.

Dear Editor: With the January *Detective*, you have shown how excellent and realistically plotted a comic magazine story can be. "The Strange Death of Batman" was probably the greatest story to appear in comicdom for some time for several reasons. To begin with, the introduction of the master villain was depicted in a manner not often seen in your stories. With it, the reader was helplessly thrust into a tale of vivid imagination which became impossible to put down. From that point on, the action started rolling and gradually built up into a mind-staggering climax. On page 11, when the fatal bullet struck *Batman*, I could almost see before my eyes his agonized face and mortally wounded body, collapsing lifelessly in the street. And then, finally, you have the *Batman* and *Alfred* of *Earth-2* appear, which was so unexpected that it nearly jolted me out of my seat! —Mitchell Sternbach, Albany, N.Y.

Dear Editor: Chapter 2 of "The Strange Death of Batman" was a dud. Whether author Fox sits in his room and "What Ifs" about each story he writes is his business. I believe you should cut out this type of imaginary story. —David Freeman, Bronx, N.Y.

Address communications to BATMAN'S HOT-LINE, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York, 10022. Personal replies will be honored only if a stamped, self-addressed envelope is enclosed.

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How to BEAT ANY BULLY!
How to be A SUCCESS AT EVERYTHING! etc.

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Sincerely Yours, *Ben Rebuhn*



How do YOU look walking on the beach with your girl or wife?

Tony Pascarella AFTER

LET ME SHOW YOU FREE HOW TO DEVELOP

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WHICH OF MY 181,000 PUPILS WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE?

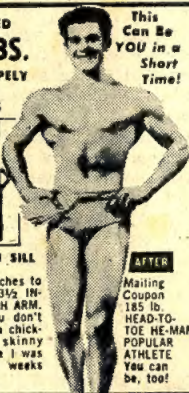
I GAINED 60 LBS. OF SHAPELY MIGHTY MUSCLES



Mailing Coupon I was a 125 lb. 6 ft. skinny weakling

says JOHN SILL

I added 7 inches to MY CHEST, 3 1/2 INCHES TO EACH ARM. No, Pal! You don't have to be a chick-en-hearted skinny weakling like I was only a few weeks ago.



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Mailing Coupon 185 lb. HEAD-TO-TOE HE-MAN POPULAR ATHLETE You can be, too!

"I LOST 30 LBS. OF DANGEROUS UGLY FAT 4 INCHES OFF MY WAIST!"



Which of these 2 ME'S is YOU?

"That 220 lb. FAT-BOY was ME a few weeks ago!" Look at him NOW! I gave him MIGHTY MUSCLES, added 7 inches to his CHEST, 3 inches on each arm! No! I don't care how fat and flabby you are. All I want is minutes a day in your home to make you over by the same method.

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☐ I'm enclosing a dime for shipping and handling these 5 Courses to me FREE.

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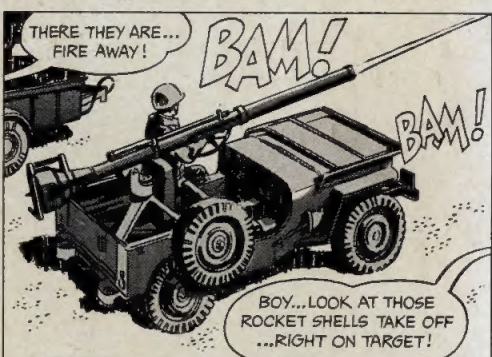
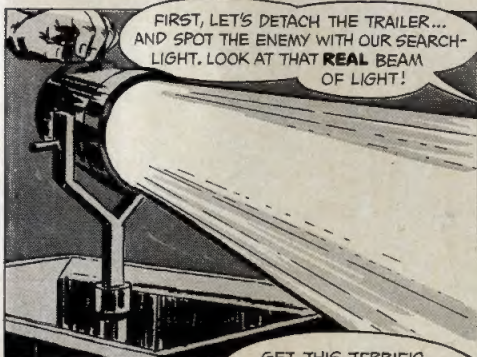
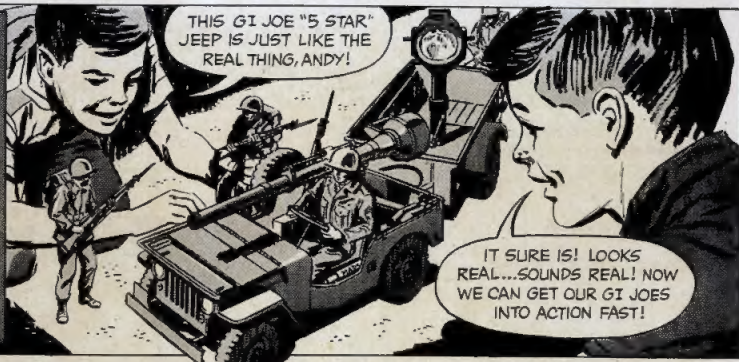
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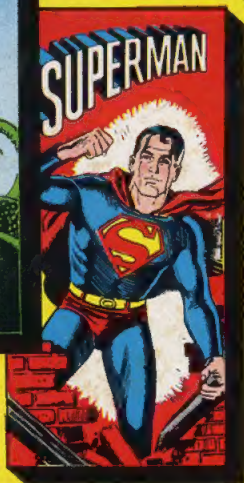
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